THE MERIDIAN
SWAVESEY

No. 158 February/March 2016

SWAVESEY FESTIVAL 2016

POP QUIZ

Teams of 8

Saturday 12 March 8pm

Swavesey Windmill, Hale Road, CB24 4QP

Doors open 7.30

Admission £5

BYO nibbles Licensed bar

Tickets from Swavesey Windmill

01954 232247

Fundraiser

Swavesey Festival facebook

EDITORIAL

Spring is in the air, the days are slowly getting longer and we can look ahead to summer. Gardens will be full of flowers, the allotments will be producing the first fruits and vegetables of the year and Swavesey festival is coming!

Lots of events and activities are in the planning stage; watch for details in your Meridian and on the Meridian website. If you are organising an event then please let us know about it in good time so we can let everyone else know.

The deadline for the April/May issue is **20th February**.

Editor

Cover Image - 'Winter Visitor' by Peter Martin
Inside Front Cover - Pop Quiz
Inside Back Cover - Race Night
Back Cover - Energise

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Major Events List

This list is intended to avoid major events clashing on the same day. It will only work if we are advised of all such events, so please let us know as soon as you can confirm the details.

A form is available at the back of this magazine. We will list them in this section of the Magazine and also on our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk

2016

Saturday, February 6, Energise - Dance Showcase - 3.00pm & 7.30pm at Swavesey Village College Venue, April Martin, (01954) 200533.

Saturday, February 20, Swavesey Festival Race Night at Swavesey Windmill
Doors open 7.30pm first race 8.00pm. Tickets £5.00 on 01954 232247, Simon Shore, (01954) 230848.

Saturday, March 12, Swavesey Festival Pop Quiz - teams of 8 - at Swavesey Windmill. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Admission £5.00. Tickets 01954 232247, Simon Shore, (01954) 230848.

Sunday, March 20, Swavesey Half Marathon and parallel five mile run. Inviting all runners and fitness fanatics to sign-up and take part.
See www.swaveseyhalfmarathon.com for more information, Kate Sealy, (01954) 230366

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February		
Wednesday 3	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Saturday 6	April Burgess Martin School of Ballet	Energise - Dance Showcase - 3.00pm & 7.30pm at Swavesey Village College Venue
Wednesday 10	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Wednesday 10	Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	'Roman Road and Fleam Dyke' Presented by Iain Webb From the Wildlife Trust
Wednesday 17	Refuse Collection	Blue Bin only
Saturday 20	Swavesey Festival Committee	Swavesey Festival Race Night at Swavesey Windmill. Doors open 7.30pm first race 8.00pm. Tickets £5.00 on 01954 232247
Monday 22	Swavesey Parish Council	Parish Council Meeting - Full Council Meeting 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall
Wednesday 24	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
March		
Wednesday 2	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Wednesday 9	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Wednesday 9	Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	Brian Eversham from the Wildlife Trust An illustrated talk about 'Ants and their Life'
Saturday 12	Swavesey Festival Committee	Swavesey Festival Pop Quiz - teams of 8 - at Swavesey Windmill. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Admission £5.00. Tickets 01954 232247
Wednesday 16	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Sunday 20	Swavesey Village College	Swavesey Half Marathon and parallel five mile run. Inviting all runners and fitness fanatics to sign-up and take part. See :- www.swaveseyhalfmarathon.com for more information
Monday 21	Swavesey Parish Council	Parish Council Meeting - Full Council Meeting 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall
Wednesday 23	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 31	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins (Note Thursday)
April		
Wednesday 6	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection

CLUB REPORTS

Swavesey Spartans FC

Overview:- At the Christmas break in the 2015/16 season the number of postponements due to the weather is at an all time low, ironically the season when due to the work on Swavesey Green, we have not set foot on our most popular home ground. As you will have read in the last edition of the Meridian the project to rectify the Green's drainage problems has been delivered. We have been letting the rectification work bed in and working with the Parish Council to ensure the solution is looked at as a long term fix - short term pain for long term gain. The Parish Council have done a fantastic job to secure the Amey Community Challenge 2015 grant and manage the contractor undertaking the improvement. We hope that the Green will now be able to endure the British weather for future generations of villagers. We hope that villagers get behind the guys on Saturday mornings between 1000 and 1200 on the Green when action resumes - refreshments are available from the Pavilion.

Kit Sponsors:- As many of you know all too well children keep growing and kits do not last as long as they did when you were their age. The current Under 10 and Under 14 boys teams are seeking sponsors to provide new kits. If you can help please contact us.

Referee Development:- The club recognises that the vast majority of children who aspire to play professional football do not ever get the chance. The chances of making the grade as a match official are far greater and the club is actively encouraging players aged 14 and over to qualify to be a referee - it is amazing what those of us who have been around football all of our lives do not know about the laws of the game. You don't need to be one of our players or even currently associated with the club to get involved. You might want to be the next Martin Atkinson or want to get fitter by running the line in our Mini-League games? Whatever your ambitions there is a "win/win" opportunity for both the club and the volunteer, if you are interested please get in touch. You need to be 14 to qualify (those more senior in years are also welcome), but if you take the plunge and pass the exams you could land yourself some extra cash by doing a Saturday job you enjoy during those college (or retirement) years. The club has a dedicated Referee Development Officer, as well as other referees who will help all those interested develop. We are of course affiliated to Cambridgeshire FA and can put those interested in touch with their development team.

Website:- Our relaunched website is there to keep you up to date on all matters Spartans. The new site is www.swaveseyspartans.co.uk (please note there is no "fc" in the address now.) please contact the club using the details on the site or the details in the club section of this Meridian. Feedback on the site is welcome, although it is already acknowledged that the "mugshots" of the coaches do not show off their good looks in the most complimentary light

(Continued)

Spartans Day:- As usual the club will be holding the annual Spartans Day on Swavesey Green and has provisionally penciled in Sunday 19 June 2016 (Father's Day) subject to other considerations around the Swavesey Festival. We will confirm the date and publicise it nearer the date, but as you populate your 2016 calendars please pencil this day in. A day of family interaction and a display of children's football skills for us all to enjoy. The annual presentations will also recognise up to 8 players who will reach the Under 16s having had a full youth football career with Spartans.

Cambridge City:- Last April our Under 9s took part in a penalty competition in front of a 375 crowd during Cambridge City's Southern Premier League game against Bideford. The boys acquitted themselves so well that this year's Under 8s (school year 3) will be taking the chance to emulate them later this season.

Partnership with Cambridge United FC:- Swavesey Spartans are one of the Chartered Standard Clubs who have signed up to the partnering relationship with Cambridge United. As part of this Swavesey Spartans will benefit from some of the resources available through this programme. There are discounts offered to our players for the Cambridge United holiday and term time Soccer Schools and Soccer Centres, which have Swavesey Village College as one of their locations. Players and parents are offered heavily discounted tickets to selected Football League 2 matches which gives our players a chance to watch football in a proper ground at affordable prices whilst new manager, Shaun Derry, is trying to guide his team to promotion to League One.

Swavesey Community Choir

Thank you to everyone who came to the Christmas Concert. Very interesting to be singing 'The blasts of chill December' with the wind howling outside!!!!

We are looking forward to getting back to rehearsals for the Swavesey Festival and for The Fringe in The Fen

Look out for the local publicity and remember that there are tickets available on the door at our concerts

Please do come and support your local choir.

We meet every Wednesday during term time at Swavesey Village College from 7.30 pm until 9.00 pm Please contact me if you have any questions: Chrissie Richardson 07881 824095.

Happy Singing ☺

An Extraordinary Voyage

In February and March this year those who wish to improve their photographic techniques can look forward to three instructive evenings. On 11th February Jim and Fred Price will tell us of their progress from ordinary Camera Club members to regular award winners. They will have a light-hearted discussion on what makes an exhibition print (we understand there will be some audience participation???). On February 25th we will be visited by Janet Haines. Her great love is helping other photographers gain confidence in their work, by setting themselves targets and expanding their horizons. Stuart Crump comes on 10th March; he has always specialised in Landscapes and since retirement he has developed a special interest in those taken with long exposures. You might have seen these in Photographer of the Year Book 5 or in a Royal Photographic Society event.

We should all be able to pick up some useful advice, but probably a little late for our next three competitions. The Bamber Trophy is always a special evening: 5 digital images to show a wide range of skills. This will be on February 4th. Our second Set Subject competition of the year, 'Street', is on 3rd March; this is a very popular type of photography, so we look forward to some fine entries. On March 17th we have the Themed Print Panel: five mounted prints which work together well as a balanced set. This is far more difficult than it sounds.

In mid March you should look out for our poster for our next event which we think will appeal to you all. On 17th March we have ' The Greatest Survival Story Ever Told'. Geoff Selbey FRGS will describe Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated 1914 -1917 Antarctic expedition, and the miraculous journey on foot and boat to Elephant Island, followed by a further 900 mile sea journey to South Georgia. Geoff has original expedition photographs taken by Frank Hurley, used by Leonard Hussey on his lecture tour in the 1920's. Please make a note in your diary, and arrive early as we expect it will be well attended.

Non-members are always welcome for this or any other evening for an entry fee of £4.

Mo Hadfield.
Swavesey Camera Club.
www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk

DIGITAL PHOTO COMPETITION

Swavesey Camera Club
One of the leading clubs in East Anglia

ANYTHING BUT SELFIES !!!

Swavesey Camera Club are organising a simple to enter Digital Projected Image competition open to non-professionals on any subject (but no selfies!).

Just email your JPEG file (less than 5MB) with the title, your name, school or scouting group (if applicable) and email address to swaveseycomp@ctrltd.co.uk.

There will be three categories – junior school; senior school; and adults. Adult prize of 1 year's membership to SCC (worth £63) and cash prizes of £25 to the two junior winners.

The closing date for entries is March 31st 2016. Winning entries will be displayed at our Annual Exhibition on April 16th 2016 in the Swavesey Memorial Hall.

Cambridge VBAC Friends

Cambridge VBAC Friends is a peer support group for women planning birth after caesarean in the Cambridge area.

Find support and connect with other local women at our online support group www.facebook.com/groups/CambridgeVBACfriends/ or the monthly drop-in session in central Cambridge.

There's news & resources at: cambridgevbacfriends.wordpress.com/ and we're on twitter @CambVBACfriends

Into Year 4 at Hale Road Allotments

More than three quarters of our plot holders are experienced and knowledgeable growers by now because they are well into their fourth growing season. This is an unusually high survival rate for a new allotment site and even then the main reason for leaving has been families having to move out of the village, usually connected with their employment. Soft fruit such as strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and currants of all colours as well as rhubarb and asparagus are well established. By this summer the top fruit such as apples, pears and plums should be cropping heavily, depending on spring frost incidence.

One of the main benefits of belonging to the National Allotment Society is that we get vegetable and flower seeds at massively discounted prices (around 50% of Marshalls, Suttons etc. prices for the same varieties and quantities) from Kings Seeds, Colchester and we collected our packages at an evening social event in the Bethel Baptist church at the beginning of February. Some of the early birds have already purchased seed potatoes from Oakington Garden Centre and have started to chit them slowly. As members of Hale Road allotments we get 10% discount on everything purchased at Madingley Mulch and at Oakington G C (but not in their café!).

Andrew Fenwick of Atlas Tree Surgery kindly allows us to have as much shredded wood/bark as we like for free which is used to keep weeds down among our raspberry canes and is spread along internal paths making them cleaner to walk on and simply giving a more professional appearance to our plots. Another good friend of our site is Edwin Parish, landscape gardener in Swavesey, who applies herbicide round the base of our perimeter fence, preventing weeds from creeping in, and regularly places useful items at our recycling cupboard including wooden stakes, paving slabs, pots of all sizes and rolls of turf to mention a few.

In 2014 we imported a total of 145 tonnes of manure, made up of local authority compost, horse and cattle manure which, if a barrow load weighs around 25 kg means the 60 plot holders shifted 5,800 barrow loads or 97 each that year. Our Chairman was curious to see how much could be tolerated so in 2015 the manure imports were increased to 225 tonnes. There are still 30 or 40 tonnes left at this stage of the winter in our car park but this will all be gone by the end of April, then we can start again.

We held a number of fundraising events during 2015. First we took a stand at Over Carnival on Saturday 18 July. Next on Thursday 30 July we manned the Compass Café at Bethel Baptist church with several of us on duty and 7 extravagantly decorated and lovely cakes (we could have had more if needed) plus very fresh produce for sale. Then on Saturday 19 September we held a produce sale in Market Street alongside the WI who were selling cakes and jam. In the two hours of selling we made £113 while the WI made £213. Maybe we should sell cakes and jam next time. Our biggest fund raiser by far was on Saturday14 November when Colin (half plots 17/22) and Russell (plot 25) organised a Quiz Night in the Memorial Hall. It flowed at a rapid but smooth pace and all twelve teams enjoyed themselves enormously.

On a 60-plot site there is inevitable ongoing turnover of ownership. A development of 20 Social Housing homes for rent to local people, mainly to young people, is under construction in Fen Drayton Road, due for completion in summer 2016. Tenants will be actively invited to become plot holders. If you would like to get in first and join our waiting list phone Selwyn on 07731 585450.

SWAVESEY FESTIVAL 2016

Registered Charity No. 1125778

Spread over the nine days from Fri 17 to Sat 25 June, including "Open Swavesey" weekend on 18/19 and Gala Day on Sat 25, with lots of events for all the family throughout the week.

Scarecrows – The Musicals

Last time we had 38 scarecrow entries and we hope to beat that in 2016. This should be easy because the theme is "The Musicals" which could include anything from My Fair Lady to Cats and from Starlight Express to Wicked. So there is plenty to go on when making your Scarecrow. There will be a £50 prize for the best character. Contact Sally on 230200 if you wish to enter the competition.

Open Gardens

This is always a popular item which we would like Swavesey residents to take part in again please. If you would like to open your garden to visitors on the afternoons of Sat and Sun, with Tues and Wed evening as additions or alternatives, contact Selwyn on 07731 585450 or at selwyn.richardson1@gmail.com. The allotments in Hale Road will be taking part.

Decorate the front of your house area

Whether it is with flowers or garden gnomes or yarn bombing (removable graffiti) this is a free-to-enter competition which we are running for the first time. It may be just your front door or a rockery at the front or your entire front garden. We want to find the prettiest or the most striking or most original and there is a tempting £25 prize for the winner. To get your house on the trail contact Sally on 230200.

Even more village trails

We will again have pretty flags at former pub locations and blue plaques highlighting food producers and sellers. In 2014 the focus was on High Street so this time it will include the suburbs. Continuing our busy programme encouraging you to explore the village, we will also have a sort of treasure hunt walking quiz to keep you entertained.

Stalls and activities on the village green

The final Saturday will start with the parade through local streets to the green with "The Musicals" as the theme. Stalls are still available for the Village Show and to book one please contact Simon on 230848 or at simonshore99@gmail.com. There will be a packed programme of performances in the central stage area and on the stage. Around the field we will have returning displays and events ranging from The Raptor foundation to wellie wanging. For the first time Aquazorb will be there with massive transparent plastic balls for children to stand inside, walking on water or on land plus their inflatable slide and bouncy castle.

Village show entry classes 2016

Adults (17 and over)

Flower arranging- musicals theme	
1. Sunny Afternoon - a table centre	2. Wicked - not a pedestal arrangement
Flowers	
3. A bunch of 5 different garden flowers	5. A single Rose
4. 6 sweet Peas	
Fruit and vegetables	
6. Strawberries (10)	13. Beetroot (3)
7. Gooseberries (10)	14. Carrots (5)
8. Raspberries (10)	15. Onions (bulb, 3)
9. Currants (black, red or white, 2 stalks)	16. Broad beans (5 pods)
10. Courgettes (3)	17. Radish (5)
11. Lettuce (1)	18. 3 different types of vegetable (1 of each)
12. New potatoes (3)	
Preserves	
19. A jar of citrus marmalade	22. A jar of chutney
20. A jar of fruit jam	23. A jar of lemon curd
21. A jar of herb or fruit jelly	
Home Baking	
24. A cake made using vegetables	27. A boiled fruit cake (recipe supplied)
25. A raspberry jam filled Swiss roll	28. A cake for the Queens 90th Birthday
26. 4 cheese scones	
Other Produce	
29. A bottle of elderflower cordial	31. 3 poultry eggs
30. A bottle of sloe gin	
Handicraft	
32. A tea cosy	34. An item made for a child
33. A knitted item	35. A homemade cloth for a table or a picnic

Children's entries

Cookery	
36. Under 5 years - decorate a purchased cake for the queens 90th birthday	38. 8-11 years make a birthday cake for the queen
37. 5- 7yrs - make a birthday cake for the queen	
Craft	
39. Under 5 - A birthday card for the queen	45. 5-7 years - a piece of jewellery involving beads
40. 5-7 years - A birthday card for the queen	46. 8-11 years a piece of jewellery involving beads
41. 8-11 years - A birthday card for the queen	47. 5-7 years - an original Lego model (not made from a kit)
42. Under 5 - A grass head	48. 8-11 years - an original Lego model (not made from a kit)
43. 5-7 years - A grass head	
44. 8-11 years - A grass head	

Swavesey Festival 100 Club

	£	Nov-16	Dec-16
First prize	60	Glyn Jones	Katie Arliss
Second prize	30	John Pook	Margaret Guest
Third prize	15	Gary Bidwell	Peter Fuller

- - - and finally

We need a capable, helpful person to manage the Festival 2016 website please. If you are that person get in touch with Selwyn on the contact details above. Thanks.

For information, contact

Brian Chapman 01954 230784

John Morley 01954 780803

Glynis Fenwick 01954 230634

OR info@fenlandsquash.org.uk

NEWS UPDATE – JANUARY 2016

The two men's teams and one ladies team are now playing their Cambs. Interclub matches. All teams welcome new players and if you would like to be involved please contact those above. We also have a club league and ladder for those players wanting regular friendly matches and team training on Monday nights. The juniors have had many successes this year with Malik Bilen being selected for the East of England Boys U13 team and Hannah Gingell for the Girls U17 team. Mumin Bilen and Rawdon Prothero were also selected to take part in the East Championships. I still have places for any juniors who would like to try a new sport. Five junior sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

We ran a fun family tournament in November and, at the time of writing, have 36 players participating in a team tournament on January 3rd.

Visit our web site to learn more about the club – www.fenlandsquash.org.uk

Glynis Fenwick (glynisfenwick@googlemail.com)

Fen Drayton Lakes News

By Luke Wake

Song Thrush (RSPB website)

Late February into March is my favourite time of year, as this signals the end of short, cold winter days and the beginning of the breeding season. The mornings are filled with the beautiful sound of bird song, which builds throughout this period and is a joy to hear on fresh, crisp, spring mornings. Song thrushes, robins, blackbirds, chaffinches, dunnocks and wrens dominate this early season chorus before migrants such as sedge warblers, nightingales, chiffchaffs, willow warblers, blackcaps and whitethroats join us in the weeks to come to turn up the volume.

Late March will also see the emergence of butterfly species such as brimstone, small tortoiseshell and red admiral. These butterflies are the first to be seen on the wing as they overwinter as adults. As soon as they emerge they can be seen fluttering by in search of food sources and mates, with this adding a dash of colour to still, warm, early spring days. This is also a great time of year to keep an eye out for spring flowers such as wood anemone, violets, lesser celandine and primrose which add a splash of colour to woodland edges and countryside lanes.

Therefore, this period of the year is absolutely perfect for taking some time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Fen Drayton Lakes. Why not get up early and see how many species you can hear and spot on the reserve. If you do have any interesting sightings then I would love to hear about them. I am the newly appointed Assistant Warden at Fen Drayton Lakes and you can contact me via email at luke.wake@rspb.org.uk

Small Tortoiseshell (L.Wake)

Swavesey Community Warden Scheme

The Community Warden Service assists older people by providing support to help them live independently in their own homes.

The warden makes contact with older people using the service by telephone or in person to establish their well being. This can help to avert a crisis occurring.

Light duties can be carried out for a short period, particularly if an individual suddenly becomes unwell. The service can be arranged on an ongoing basis or for temporary periods (e.g. following hospital discharge).

The Warden Service is funded by and closely supported by the Parish Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Thomas Galon Charity, Bethel Church and a generous donation from Swavesey Women's Institute. It is managed by Age UK Cambridgeshire and is open to local people aged 60 or over for a small charge each week payable to the warden.

The warden will contact older people using the service daily (Mon-Fri), either by a personal visit or telephone. From this, it can be established what assistance is needed.

The Warden can assist with, for example:

- Watering plants/ feeding pets.
- Small amounts of shopping/posting letters.
- Collecting prescriptions/ help with paperwork.
- Above all, to be a regular source of reassurance and information to support independent living.

If you are interested in finding out more about the service for yourself or someone you know, please contact the Community Warden on **07436 102 736** or Age UK Cambridgeshire's Helpline on **0300 666 9860**.

The new library is a Great success. Visit the new location. Sit and browse our shelves

We opened the new Library with a very successful and happy childrens' story time. Over 50 young readers and their family joined in. All ages welcome!!!!
So keep coming!

If you are a member of the County Library service you can borrow all our books. You can order books and other material for collection at our Library. You and all your family can also join the library with us and borrow up to 12 books each! And remember - it's all Free!!

Opening hours are now

Tuesday	15.30 to 17.30
Wednesday	18.00 to 20.00
Thursday	18.00 to 20.00

And the first Saturday in every month 10am to 12noon

Your Library Committee can be contacted through:

Richard Hart	**202707**	**Sarah Hellon**	**230960**
Jacqui Fuller	**230774**	**Sue Jones**	**230650**
John Pook	**230978**	**Doug and Lorraine Hunt**	**232478**

We always welcome volunteers to help man the Library so please join us and keep your library alive!!!

Doctors Surgeries

Swavesey Surgery
(01954) 230202
Out of hours 0330 123 9131
Website:-
www.swaveseysurgery.nhs.uk

Over Surgery
(01954) 231550
Out of hours 0330 123 9131
Website:- www.oversurgery.nhs.uk

Longstanton
(01954) 207600
Out of hours 111
Website:-
www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Bar Hill Surgery
(01954) 780442
Out of hours (01954) 780442 -
call will automatically be diverted
Website:- www.mhmaple.co.uk/

Fenstanton
7E High Street, Fenstanton
01480 461873
Out of hours 01480 461873.
call will automatically be diverted
Website:-
www.northcotehousesurgery

See our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk for the full and latest surgery newsletters. Ed

VOLUNTEER DRIVER REQUIRED

The Over Day Centre is a thriving charity that offers high quality day care for the frail and elderly of Over and the surrounding villages.

Can you spare any time?

We urgently require volunteer Drivers for transporting our clients to and from the Centre. Sessions are: Tuesday's 9.15 – 11.00 am and 3.15 pm – 5.00 pm.
Full training will be given and a DBS check will be required.

For further information, please contact the Centre Manager, Sarah Peck, at Over Day Centre, 1 Drings Close, Over, CB24 5NZ.

Tel: 01954 231807 **email: office@overdaycentre.co.uk**

Half marathon is back for another year

The annual Swavesey Half Marathon is set to return again to the streets of Swavesey on **Sunday 20th March 2016**.
Staff and students at Swavesey Village College, are ready to unfold the next Swavesey Half Marathon and parallel five mile run and are inviting all runners and fitness fanatics from across the region to sign-up now and take part in what has been heralded as a great event.

The half marathon and five mile fun run will take place on Sunday 20th March and will be open to all levels of runners. The five mile race is open to anyone over the age of 13 years, and the half marathon is available to anyone over 17 years old.

The course will start and end at Swavesey Village College and will take runners of all abilities through the picturesque village and inspiring RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes nature reserve, and finally returning along the guided bus way and cycleway (although not on the bus way itself). Registration is now open information can be found on-line at www.swaveseyhalfmarathon.com

Staff and students from the village college will be offering support on the day to the runners and event organisers and hope to make this event another great success. There will be refreshments on site, free parking and bag storage. The course offers a flat and multi-terrain route, a great opportunity to test the winter training or achieve that first half marathon distance.

Kate Sealy, Race Director for the half marathon said: "What makes this event so special and really stand out from other runs is the support the local community, staff and students give along the route. It is great to have so many students scattered along the route encouraging runners to survive the distance or push for their personal bests, it really makes for a fantastic atmosphere'.

Entry fees for the half marathon will be £16 for affiliated members and £18 for non-affiliated members. The five mile race costs £5 for under-16s and £12/£14 for 16+ for affiliated and unaffiliated respectively. The funds raised by the Swavesey Half Marathon will go to enhancing our outdoor education park with 10% donated to the Team Bacon fundraising group, raising money to support The Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice Appeal, in memory of our late inspirational head teacher Martin Bacon.

Students that support the half marathon will be contributing towards their school 'pledges' initiative. The pledges respond to a range of activities that Swavesey Village College believe students should experience in order to develop the skills and confidence to complement their academic achievements. The pledges are Participation, Leadership, Environment, Diversity, Giving, Excellence and Service.

For more information and training inspiration please visit www.swaveseyhalfmarathon.com or follow @SwaveseyHalf on Twitter.

SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Swavesey Music School

9am – 10am	Sing Up	choir	4yrs – 12yrs
10am – 11am	Rockin' Rhythms I	interactive theory lessons	4yrs – 7yrs
	Rockin' Rhythms II		8+yrs
	Rockin' Rhythms III		Grade 3+
11am – 12pm	Junior Orchestra	instrumental ensemble	all levels; all ages
	Rock School	guitars, drums, vocals	9+yrs

£3.50 per session!

Now in its 7th. Year!

Term starts September 13th. ~ come along and find out what it's all about!

Swavesey Music School
Swavesey Village College
Gibraltar Lane
Swavesey
CB24 4RS

Audrey Caldwell, Director of Music
acaldwell@swaveseyvc.co.uk
http://swaveseyms.co.uk/

Welcome to Adult Learning at Swavesey Village College

Learning and leisure contributes hugely to health and well-being. Whether you're looking to enhance your current skills, increase your confidence, keep active and fit or just meet new people who want the same as you, there's something for everyone.

New classes for 2016 include An Introduction to the Cello, Bridge for Beginners and Intro to Bookkeeping.

Work off those Christmas excesses with Fitsteps , Yoga, Pilates or Yogalates: Destress with Mindfulness, Emotional Detox or Tai Chi: Try out new skills with our Bread making, Indian Street Food or Pencil Illustration Saturday Workshops.

For details of all our classes please visit the Swavesey Village College website Community Education tab, e mail us on community@swaveseyvc.co.uk or call us on 01954 234488.

Swavesey Playtimers

Tuesday 10-11.30am
In the back room of the Bethel Church, different craft activities, stories and themes each week. £2

Wednesday 10–12noon
At the Memorial Hall, singing with Sharon from 11.15am, all ages. £4

All children under 5 welcome to these term-time toddler groups. Find out what is going on from our Facebook group – "Swavesey playgroups". A great chance to meet local parents.

APRIL BURGESS MARTIN SCHOOL OF BALLET

Ballet classes at Over Primary School
Thursday afternoons for age 3+ - 16+

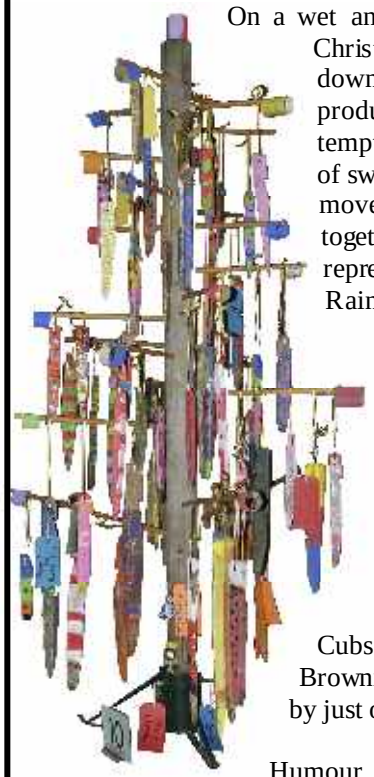
Please contact April Martin for information on places for the new term.

Qualified experienced teacher Associate of ARBTA
Member BDQT (DBS Checked)

01954 200533
tutusrus@ntlworld.com

CRB Disclosure & Barring Service

Christmas Tree Festival 2015



On a wet and miserable weekend, St Andrew's held their 4th Christmas Tree Festival. The total number of trees was down this year, but the standard and effort involved in producing those trees was as great as ever. Visitors were tempted by the stunning piñata tree, filled with over 1kg of sweets, to buy raffle tickets in an attempt to win it, then moved on to the children's entries, this year arranged together. Children's groups within the village were well represented including a 'Tree of Trees' from Swavesey Rainbows; the Guides displayed items made during their recent Christmas Challenge badge; Playtimers all decorated paper baubles for their tree; St Andrew's Sunday school had folded origami stars and children from Kid's Club made individual decorations for their tree. There were a few individual entries too, the stunning giant fir cones decorated by Sheila and Rosemary and the Soft Toy Tree from Alanna. Voting was very tight in the children's section with the Cubs' Tent Peg Tree beating the Brownies Spoon Father Christmases by just one vote.

Humour in the adult section was provided with the Swavesey Surgery tree made from rubber gloves blown up like balloons, whilst Bethel Baptist's tree encouraged us to peep inside and read about how many current issues also affected the Holy Family. Meridian Quilters wished us a Merry 'Hexmas' with their beautifully sewn hexagon decorations whilst Swavesey Newsagents used an overstock of Christmas Cards to make their tree. There were two clear favourites though with John and Norma's Bee Hive Tree coming second to Swavesey Crafty Ladies and WI's tree made of green knitted hats, gloves and scarves. It was amazing how many different shades of green are available in knitting wool and the red pom poms on the bobble hats made great baubles.

(continued)

As in previous years, children were hunting high and low for the twelve snowmen hidden on some of the trees, shoppers were spoilt for choice with the variety of jewellery and scarves on sale on the Saturday, and many enjoyed a cuppa with a slice of delicious homemade cake.

The Children's section results:

- 1st: Cubs 33 votes
- 2nd: Brownies 32 votes
- 3rd: Alanna 22 votes

In the adult section there were two clear leaders:

- 1st: Swavesey Crafty Ladies & WI 72 votes
- 2nd: John and Norma's Bee Tree 41 votes

The Piñata Tree was won by Lisa and Hunt the Snowman by Amber.

Thank you very much to those who entered trees, sponsored the event, turned up to vote and eat cake, and to the many helpers who kept the event running.

Compass Café

"Encompasses the community"

Every Thursday morning from 10.30 until 12.00

at Bethel Baptist Church.

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Would your group like to earn some extra money?

When there is a 5th Thursday in a month we are looking for other groups to run Compass Café. It is quite easy and instructions will be given. You will need 5/6 people, 6 homemade cakes, 4 pints of milk and some tea towels! Everything else is supplied.

Please contact Sue Ellington for more information: sue.ellington@virgin.net or 01954 202923

5th Thursdays in 2016

31st March 30th June 29th September 29th December
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COMPASS YOUTH CAFÉ

Open Access Club for Students **Year 7** to **Year 11**

Wireless Internet Access — Music — XBox — Wii
Tuck Shop — Table Tennis— Board Games
and many more activities

Fridays 7pm to 9pm
Bethel Baptist Church Swavesey
(Parents are required to sign and return consent form)

For more information contact:
admin@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

For more information and updates on any of our regular or future activities (including Easter), visit our website:
www.bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

You can also contact us by sending an email to:
admin@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

LIVELY SUNDAY SERVICE

All WELCOME
Something for ALL the family!
10.45 am each week with Activities for children 0-16 years
First Sunday in the Month — 9:30 am service followed by Church around the coffee table at **10:45 am!**
Why not come and try it?

MONDAY NIGHT CLUBS

Fun and Games for Children in Keystages 1, 2 and 3 every Monday night during term-time.

Come and Join us at 6:00pm *(KS1 & KS2)* for an hour of fun activities as we learn about the Christian faith through stories, music and discussions.
Survivors (KS3) meet at 7:00pm

For more information on our weekly events:
Please feel free to contact David Mann, our minister at minister@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk or 01954230458
www.bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

The Parish and Priory Church of St Andrew, Swavesey

A warm welcome awaits you at all the services and events of your parish church.

Services at St Andrew's will continue during the Vacancy while we await the Diocese's decision on our new Vicar.

Service Pattern during the Vacancy		
1st Sunday of the month	11am 6.30pm	Parish Communion Evening Prayer
2nd Sunday of the month	8am 11am	Holy Communion Service of The Word
3rd Sunday of the month	11am 7pm	Parish Communion Sunday Sanctuary *(alternate with Bethel)*
4th Sunday of the month	11am	Family Communion
5th Sunday of the month	10am	Benefice Service Check the website for venue and time.

NB: this service pattern is subject to change and availability of clergy. Please check www.honeyhill.org for up to date information.

Lent and Easter Services

10 Feb	7pm	Ash Wednesday Communion
24 Mar	7pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
25 Mar	2pm	Good Friday Vigil
26 Mar	8pm	Easter Eve Service of Light
27 Mar	11am	Easter Sunday Communion

Website: www.honeyhill.org
St Andrew's Church, Swavesey

For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals please contact the Churchwarden:
Andrew Stevens
andrew@overroad.co.uk
01954 231433

BATS and Sunday School:
Caroline Stevens
caroline@overroad.co.uk
01954 231433

The Parish and Priory Church of St Andrew, Swavesey

Children and young people are very welcome at St Andrew's.

Sunday School

Children from the age of five are welcome to join our Sunday School each week during the 11am service, except 4th Sundays when its Family Communion and the children are in church.
For younger children, or those who prefer to stay with their parents, we have 'fidget bags' (bags of books and toys) for use during services.

Baby And Toddler Services

An informal service aimed at preschool age children and their parents and carers held on the second Monday of each month at 10.30am.
Please come and join us for a story, songs, prayer, craft, drink and a biscuit, and a chance to chat with others.
When the second Monday occurs in the school holidays, please bring your school age children too.

Bell Ringing Anyone from the age of about ten years is welcome to come along and find out more. Tuesdays between 7:30 and 9pm.

Church Choir Do you enjoy singing? Our Church choir welcomes new members. We're a friendly group that performs items for special services, accompanies the main church services and leads congregational singing. We cover a mix of traditional choral work and more modern styles. Pieces range from four-part to unison. We're particularly keen to recruit tenors and basses but all voices are welcome.
Contact: John Mullett: johnajmullett@gmail.com or 077026 79191

Compass Café "Encompasses the community"

We host Compass Café on the third Thursday of each month at Bethel Baptist Church from 10.30am until 12 noon.

SWAVESEY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

We hope that you were able to attend the Christmas carols event in the Market St this year, we were very fortunate again to have excellent weather. Despite being unable to get a local band this year, we improvised with background music to make this a lovely evening with carol singing and a special visit from Father Christmas, which make this a truly magical and festive event.

This year was poignant, after saying goodbye to Bob Stone who sadly passed away in September, Bob was the founder of this event over 30 years ago when I was one of the small children attending the carols. Bob was the driving force behind keeping the Christmas spirit alive and so special in Swavesey, something we should be truly grateful for.

We wanted to say a special thank you to:

- Target Print for printing the fabulous Christmas Carol booklets.
- Claire and Nigel Drake from the Newsagents in Market St, for their very generous donation of confectionary and raffle prize, this was greatly appreciated.
- All those who donated raffle prizes including White Horse, The Windmill, many Swavesey residents, we had some excellent prizes this year and we really do appreciate your support.

Thank you to all our helpers on the night including:

- David Hackshaw from YPL Events who kindly provided the sound system on the night.
- The Scouts for selling the Christmas carol booklets and the Cub helpers for doing the hot chocolate.
- All the helpers for the mulled wine & raffle stalls, they did an absolutely sterling job, as did Mr & Mrs Pook who did us proud, yet again, by providing an endless supply of hot mulled wine.
- Our wonderful reindeers for helping Father Christmas deliver some Christmas spirit to our lovely Swavesey children.
- To all those who helped set up and clear away on the night.

YPL Events
Audio | Lighting | Video

We hope we haven't missed anyone off our thank you list, apologies if we have, we really do appreciate all your support. We rely heavily on the support of volunteers to help make this event a success, therefore if you'd like to volunteer in any way to help us for next year's event then please let us know as we really need someone who can help with the organisation of this event.

We do hope that you all enjoyed this year's event. Please remember that this event is financed solely by money collected on the night and donations. This year, we were able to cover our costs and make donations to the 1st Swavesey Scout Group and Swavesey Action for Youth, so thank you very much for your kind support.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year from Jeff & Claire Cockram 01954 205120 jeffcockram@hotmail.co.uk

PARISH AND COUNTY NEWS

From Your DC - Sue Ellington

Hello Everybody

What an exciting year this is going to be with the opening of the new council houses for Swavesey people in School Lane. They are expected to be ready for the first tenants in early May 2016 and the allocation will start in late February. So please make sure you have told the council if you are interested and completed the relevant forms. Those who are on the list need to ensure any change of name, additional children, and changes in current address have been changed on your application record. If you hear any rumours that concern you - don't pass it on but ask me whether they are true - then we can ensure nobody worries unnecessarily.

The Boundary Commission will be deciding on the new wards this year but it will not affect Swavesey until 2018 when I am due for re- election. The new wards will be bigger to accommodate a reduction of councillors from 57 to 45. But we do not know the shape of each yet.

The revised Local Plan is currently out for consultation and it is expected it will complete its process of adoption by the Autumn, but in the meantime there is still an opportunity for additional housing plans to be agreed because there is currently no officially accepted plan.

The new government financial statement means South Cambs have to make more savings than anticipated. This is manageable but means that some grant allocations and things that the council currently does will have to be reduced.

As you will remember I am a member of the Cambridgeshire Health and Welbeing Board. The current changes in the contract for Elderly care which has been handed back to the CCG is very concerning. Not least because there was no pre warning but also because of the stress and anxiety created for the patients and staff involved. Many questions need asking in relation to the cost of procuring the contract and its demise within 8 months. Clearly there are financial issues but these should have been anticipated.

As usual I am available for your queries as well as concerns, phone, text me or email me. Have a great 2016.

Sue Ellington
Swavesey Ward District Councillor
01954 202923. 07774146331
Sue.ellington@virgin.net
Cllr Ellington@scambs.gov.uk

SWAVESEY PARISH

Parish Council News November December 2015

THE POST OFFICE
The Post Office Counter in Market Street will move to the inside of the Cost Cutter Store in Middlewatch. The move will take place on 25th February. (see the article in this Meridian for details).

COUNTY COUNCIL
Highways maintenance repairs were discussed, The PC is awaiting a report from the highways department of the County Council.

Gibraltar Lane and Black Horse Lane surface water issues continue to be investigated, and a bid has been submitted for a drainage scheme for Black Horse Lane. Over and Swavesey Parish Councils are pressing the County to repair the slippery surface of the footbridge crossing the Swavesey drain giving access to the orchard and footpath to Over.

The drop off site to the guided busway is owned by the County Council and vehicles are permitted to park there. The PC has no authority over the site.

The County Council is considering withdrawing funding for the primary school crossing patrol. The Parish Council is writing in the strongest terms concerning the dangerous traffic situation and safety for children and parents and would urge residents to write to the County Council in support.

Residents have raised concerns about speeding and safety in the High Street. The PC have recently asked the County to consider a 20mph speed limit, unfortunately the Highways Department cannot agree the need. Again do write to the County Council on this matter.

The County is consulting on the future of its important County Farms Estate. The PC agreed to urge the continued existence of the estate to which, in addition to helping young farmers make a start in agriculture also brings environmental advantages and a substantial rental revenue to the County.

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Cllr Mrs Ellington reported on the changes to the boundaries for Councillors' wards. They are reducing from 57 to 45 linking neighbouring villages. As part of the final consultation the PC agreed to join Over in a representation to link the two villages into a ward.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND POLICE BUSINESS.
The PC received a report from our local police team on progress with crime and anti-social behaviour in the village. The NHW scheme is working well and a facebook page is to be set up to assist in keeping people up to date and to improve communication. Traffic problems arising from the large coach dropping off a small number of children at the primary school have been taken up with the school.

COUNCIL NEWS

VILLAGE MATTERS
Some vandalism was reported at the Moat Way play area.

DRAINAGE
Heidi Allen our MP has met with the PC to understand and take forward our flooding and drainage concerns. The PC continues to take forward issues with the District Council and the Environment Agency.

THE RECREATION GREEN
Work to the recreation green is now complete but the surface requires time to recover. The PC and the Football clubs have set up a joint working party to agree a timetable to enable full use of the green and manage future maintenance work.

PLANNING
Various planning applications and decisions were discussed.

An application by Mr and Mrs Mallindine for outline planning permission for 30 new dwellings with open space provision adjacent to 18 Boxworth End has been refused, but is going to appeal.

The PC has been approached by surveyors acting on behalf of the Scambler Trust for their views prior to submitting a planning application. The application is for 70 dwellings on a site south of Whitton Close and west of Middle Watch/Boxworth End accessed from Middle Watch.

The PC was very concerned and raised many objections which can be viewed in the minutes of the meeting on the village website. A public exhibition is to be held on Tuesday January 12th. in the Bethel Baptist church.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL AND VILLAGE WEBSITE
A new website was launched at the beginning of November on the www.swavesey.org.uk domain, to replace the former one. This website will post current information from the Parish Council covering discussion points, information and consultations. The site will also include archive libraries of Parish Council Minutes, information on your Parish Councillors and the work of the Council plus links to other village clubs and organisations. Please do take a look at it. During 2016 the Council will be looking at other ways of engaging with all residents including Facebook and Twitter.

Council Agendas, Minutes and current issues can all be found on the Parish Council webpage at www.swavesey.org.uk

Annual Parish Meeting

Weds 13th April 2016 – 7.30pm
Swavesey Memorial Hall

Your opportunity to hear reports from and ask questions of Parish, District and County Councillors, Neighbourhood Watch, village charities and community organisations.

Further information will be published on posters around the village nearer the date

Please do come along to learn more about your village
Swavesey Parish Council

Swavesey Parish Council

Website:- www.swavesey.org.uk

Parish Councillors	**Telephone**	**E-mail address**
	(01954)	
Martin Johnston (Chairman)	200605	martin.johnston1@ntlworld.com
John Pook (Vice-Chairman)	230978	pookjhn@aol.com
Lisa Boyes	232603	windmillkennels@oneservice.co.uk
James Dodson	230560	jamesdodson.highfieldfarm@virgin.net
Stuart Faben	07887 906982	stuart@fabenjoinery.com
Hannah Parish	203035	hannah.parish@niab.com
Colin Parsons	230861	trinityengineering@sky.com
Sandie Smith	232356	cambridgegills@hotmail.co.uk
Keith Wilderspin	230083	keith.wilderspin@btinternet.com
Warren Wright	203172	
Clerk		
Linda Miller	202982	clerk@swavesey.org.uk
District Councillor		
Sue Ellington	202923	sue.ellington@virgin.net
County Councillor		
Mandy Smith Papworth & Swavesey Ward	230248	mandysmith1235@btinternet.com
Memorial Hall Administrator		
Nicole Mullee	07963 861791	memorialhall@swavesey.org.uk

Swavesey Post Office Relocation

In May of this year Post Office Ltd (PO Ltd) consulted on its proposal to relocate the Post Office Counter from the premises in Market Street to a new Counter operation within the CostCutter Store, Middlewatch. In November we received their decision, which is to move the Counter to the CostCutter Store. We understand the move will be taking place in February 2016.

We know that a huge number of residents responded to the consultation, over 300 individual responses were received and on enquiring almost all raised objections to the proposed relocation. We also understand that this was the largest response received on a proposed move anywhere in the UK.

As your Parish Council we took an active role in the consultation and had a number of meetings with Managers from PO Ltd. Initially a public meeting was arranged to give residents the opportunity to question the Post Office on why they wished to move the branch. The Memorial Hall was packed out for this meeting and strong opinions were voiced to the Post Office representative.

The background to what PO Ltd is doing nationally in moving many of its local branches is financial. Central Government funding to PO Ltd is being stopped and therefore PO Ltd has to completely change the way it conducts its business with Postmasters in the future. A BBC TV programme about this was aired during the summer, showing that this situation is happening all over the country.

When the consultation closed earlier this year, the Parish Council met with Post Office Managers on a number of occasions, plus met with Helen, the existing Postmistress and with Claire at the Newsagents. The Parish Council made it very clear to PO Ltd that it thought the proposed move was wrong for the village. It also made it very clear that the way they were going about the consultation was also wrong. Council spoke about the effect the move would have on other businesses in Market St as well as residents and about the concerns with traffic, parking, safety, etc around Middlewatch if the move happened.

The Parish Council strongly challenged the necessity to move the Counter from its current location, particularly as there were so many strong objections from residents. The potential parking and highway safety issues around Middlewatch and the Gibraltar Lane junction were discussed in detail and the Parish Council made its opinion that it considered the move would create further highway safety issues very clear.

PO Managers we met with explained that small single counter PO branches, such as Swavesey's will become unviable and unable to continue once the full PO changes take effect from April 2016. This is why PO Ltd is making all PO

counters part of a retail business, either expanding the existing locations or moving counters into other retail premises. PO Counters will no longer make sufficient money on their own, therefore the Postmaster has to have another source of income.

In Swavesey's case there was no opportunity to expand the business at the PO Counter in Market St. With the contractual changes from PO Ltd from April 2016, the way in which single counter PO branches are funded will mean a huge drop in income. Royal Mail is also centralising and sorting mail within city locations, meaning this income will also be removed. Hence the PO Counter will have to have a retail business associated with it. In effect there is no choice.

The Newsagents business in Market Street was unable to take on the PO Counter for a number of reasons. The PO stated that there were no other premises/businesses in Market St which were suitable to take on the PO Counter.

PO Ltd explained to the Parish Council that if the PO Counter was left as it is, after the contract changes from April, it would be left in a situation where the business would be unable to continue. Having not moved the Counter as part of the transformation process, the business would most probably close and Swavesey would lose its Post Office completely, as the opportunity to move into CostCutter would have gone, along with the funding as part of this package. As a village we would then be in a worse situation.

The Parish Council asked that in view of the overwhelming response to the consultation could the Market St branch be protected by giving it Community Status and if the PO would support it so that it could remain as it is. PO Ltd replied that they were not able to do this and it did not qualify for Community Status, as they considered there was another suitable location. The Parish Council expressed extreme disappointment that the response to the consultation had so little effect on the outcome.

PO Ltd has left villages such as ours with a no-choice situation. Looking at the future, the village needs to keep a PO Counter. Although the Parish Council does not agree with the way this has been carried out, on behalf of the village it wishes to retain a PO Counter. Residents must use this new Counter, if not then it may well disappear and we will end up with nothing. It is wrong but we cannot see any way of changing it and throughout all of the discussions were not able to find a way to make PO Ltd adapt or make an exception.

Martin Johnston, Chairman
On behalf of Swavesey Parish Council
December 2015

Road Closure of Gibraltar Lane

Starting Monday, February 15, 2016

National Grid will be completing a new gas connection on the street that will involve closing Gibraltar Lane starting on 15/02/2016 for an anticipated duration of 4 Days.

A diversion route will be sign posted as per the plan below and they will endeavour to maintain access to property at all times. If this is not possible their team will endeavour to make alternative arrangements

National Grid state; "We aim to keep any disruption to a minimum and we thank you for your patience and co-operation. If you've got any questions please call us on 0800 0965678."

Celebrating Family Pride
Bletchley Park

Veterans' families are encouraged to join community and buy a brick. Pride burns bright in relatives of the men and women whose secret work at Bletchley Park and its outstations helped shorten World War Two.

The Bletchley Park Trust is in touch with more than 1,500 Veterans of the clandestine codebreaking organisation, the Government Code and Cypher School. Many more are no longer with us.

Now, for the first time, the Trust is reaching out to its Veterans' families to join a global community, celebrating their connection to this remarkable piece of history.

If you are related to someone who worked at Bletchley Park or one of its outstations, please email friends@bletchleypark.org.uk to join this unique community.

Drivers Using Mobile Phones

Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner backs call for drivers using mobiles to face bigger fines.

Sir Graham Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire has added his support for drivers using mobile phones to face bigger fines. The proposals are part of the government's Road Safety Plan and target those who repeatedly offend.

Sir Graham says: "I want people to understand that if they use a mobile phone at the wheel they can cause devastating accidents which cost lives. I am hopeful that these plans to increase fees and penalty points will serve as a stark reminder that persistent offenders could end up facing serious consequences."

If government plans are approved, motorists who use a mobile phone while driving could face tougher penalties, with fixed penalty fines increasing from £100 to £150 as well as an increase in the number of penalty points drivers receive from three to four. And for drivers of larger vehicles such as HGVs, points would rise from three to six points.

Over 2415 tickets were issued to people using mobile phones while driving in Cambridgeshire in 2014.

Sir Graham added: "Drivers need to be aware of the risks posed by being distracted at the wheel but also the serious penalties they will face if caught."

A consultation will be held on the new plans in 2016.

The Paraffin Man
Part II. Uncle Will's shop

In 1926, five years after he set up his travelling hardware business my father, George, married Mabel from The New Inn public house (The Trinity Foot) on the High Road (A14). For two years they lived in the cottage that stood on the site of No 86 Middle Watch. By then times had become very difficult for most people and there was a lot of unemployment which meant there was little money to spend on goods. Nevertheless, by being very careful father's business continued to prosper and when some fairly big premises in Boxworth End became available to rent in 1928 he jumped at the chance. The site had been used by a threshing contractor and consisted of a house, a large barn, stables and other buildings which were ideal for storing new and second-hand stock, including furniture. I was born there in 1930. Fryer's Court now stands on the site.

As a young man Uncle Will, who was twelve years older than father, was apprenticed to a tailor in Over and after completing his apprenticeship he started his own tailoring business in a small building at No 1, Boxworth End where he lived with his parents and sisters. By 1930 the family had moved to No 70 Boxworth End (Lyndhurst Cottages) and soon a wooden shop was built in the garden, now the site of No 70A. The building was divided into two parts. In the back room Uncle Will altered, repaired and made new suits, trousers, waistcoats etc. mostly for local people. He also made and altered men's suits for Rowells who had a men's clothing shop in St Ives. In the front part he sold cigarettes, tobacco, sweets and chocolates to supplement his tailoring income. Fixed to the outside of the shop were enamelled signs advertising cigarettes and tobacco. I can remember Uncle Will's shop and visiting my grandparents next door. On one occasion outside the shop when I was three years old I fell from the front of father's hardware waggon under the feet of the horse and I remember Grandfather grabbing me to safety. *(Continued)*

By 1938 their parents had died and in that year the large property that father rented came up for sale so he and Uncle Will pooled their savings and bought it. Uncle Will's new shop was then built on the site in three sections. At the front there was a display window with a door facing onto the road so that customers could enter from the footpath as seen in the photo of my sister Betty standing outside in 1950. The front section contained a sales counter with a set of brass scales and weights. Stacked on the shelves behind the counter were most brands of cigarettes and tobacco. There were matches and cigarette papers for those who liked to roll their own. There were large jars containing all sorts of sweets and bars of chocolate and toffee – in fact there were most varieties of confectionery that you could wish for. On the wall facing the door was a glass cabinet used to display medicines and cough mixtures. There were names such as Owbridges Cough Mixture, Elliman's Embrocation, Beecham's Pills and Syrup of Figs. I still have the glass cabinet and two of the items that were stored in it: Seven Oil for outward application and Red Indian Germ Ointment. I wonder what they were for. Next to the counter was a glass topped pin table where you put your penny in and down would drop the balls to shoot for a high score. Crates containing soft drinks such as Corona and Tizer were stacked against the other wall. A penny was refunded on the returned bottles so recycling took place back in those days. It was amazing how much stuff Uncle Will managed to stock.

On the right of the glass cabinet was a room where he carried on his tailoring work. Built into his workshop was a treadle sewing machine and as a boy I would stand for ages watching the needle going up and down. I loved to treadle the machine slowly myself and it reminded me of a steam engine. I guess this is where my interest in needlework comes from today. In the evenings when Uncle Will had finished work this room became the games room where locals who didn't want to go to the pub would turn up. Usually a crowd of good size would gather and they would buy their cigs, chocs, soft drinks and crisps etc. At first they would talk about anything and everything. When several had arrived they would decide which game to play that evening, the most popular being darts, dominoes and drafts. Players would wager a penny on the side which made it more interesting. It was more like a club than a shop in the evenings. One winter's evening when there was a nice fire burning and a full house of players inside a gang of young lads went round the back of the shop and put a wet blanket over the chimney. The room was soon full of choking smoke and everyone came rushing out coughing and spluttering with their eyes watering. The culprits were found and immediately banned from the shop but after a time all was forgotten and they were allowed back in. At holiday times such as Christmas and Easter my mother often invited the unmarried men who came to the shop to have dinner or tea with us and join in with the family entertainment so that they wouldn't be lonely. Uncle Will's shop didn't really have customers because it was more like one big family.

The third section from the road was Uncle Will's bedroom. It contained a bed, a chest of drawers, a wardrobe and a chair. It was a very pleasant room for a bachelor and each day my mother would clean and dust it for him.

He died in 1953. Father continued with the shop for a while but it was never the same after Uncle Will had gone. The shop was moved to the green in Swavesey where it was used as the football team changing room for many years. There are still people in Swavesey who remember the shop and the amusing times they spent there but in a few more years that will all be forgotten and only the photographs of the shop and the glass cabinet will remain.
David Crouch.

Community Groups & Charities

Cam Sight	Cam Sight is a local charity which offers support to anyone with a visual impairment, along with their family and carers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month in Bar Hill. For more information please telephone Joan in Bar Hill on 01954 200622 or Alison at Cam Sight on 01223 420033 or email alison@camsight.org.uk. For more info see:-www.camsight.org.uk
Cambridgeshire Hearing Help	CHH is a charity that helps people with hearing loss. Volunteers service NHS hearing aids and provide batteries and they attend Swavesey quarterly at Thistle Green. Advice on any aspects of hearing loss is available at a hearing help session or by calling the office on 01223 416141, e-mail enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk or check the website cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
Care Network	Care Network supports volunteers, encourages independence and develops good neighbour projects. We provide the Welcome Home from Hospital service across Cambridgeshire. Contact:- Care Network, 5 Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ (tel: 01954 211919).
Community First Responder Scheme	The local group in Over and Swavesey has provided help over many hours and attended over 20 patients in your community. You can support the group and help to fundraise for equipment or volunteer to become a Community First Responder within your community. Contact:- responderadmin@eastamb.nhs.uk or call 01284 731802
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is a national charity and centre of excellence in training dogs to alert deaf people to important sounds and danger signals in the home, work place and public buildings. Contact:- Jenny Parker (Branch Organiser and Speaker) 01223 833562 (evenings only), jennifer.parker5@btopenworld.com
The Friends of the Rosie Hospital	The Friends of the Rosie Hospital are helping to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. Contact:- Mrs Mary Sanders (Hon Chair) rosieinstitches@ukonline.co.uk Tel 01223 356615
East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH)	Put your free time to good use and volunteer at East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH) in Milton. Volunteering at a children's hospice doesn't always mean care work and fundraising as there are also tasks such as admin and maintenance of the grounds. Contact:- Clare Bates on 01223 815 134, email clare.bates@each.org.uk
Community Resourcing	We have a small group of local volunteers (local residents from our community) who would like to help other members of our community with any practical tasks. Contact:- Parish Council Tel: 01954 202982 or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk
Help the Heroes	We support those wounded in the service of our country. Contact:- 01480 478526
OWLS Community Car Scheme	Run by CRB checked volunteers the scheme offers a door-to-door service, for medical or some social journeys, to people who are unable to access other forms of transport. Ring 07505 254363 to book a journey, find out more, or to volunteer as a driver
Swavesey Village College Community Education	Evening courses in a variety of subjects and day workshops. Contact:- Adult Education, Swavesey Village College, Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey, Cambs, CB24 4RS. Telephone: 01954 230373 E-mail: community@swaveseyvc.co.uk Website: www.swaveseyvc.co.uk

CLUB INFORMATION

Allotments in Swavesey	Down Hale Road towards the windmill and on the right there are 61 plots, mostly 150 sq yds (125 m2) in area, backed up by eight water tanks. Large yields of a wide range of high quality vegetable, fruit and flower crops can be grown successfully. If you are interested in joining the waiting list contact Selwyn Richardson on 01954 202974.
Army Cadet Force	Swavesey Detachment, No 2 (Cromwell) Company, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force meets each Tuesday evening at the Swavesey Village College College from 7 pm. New recruits are welcomed from ages 12 years (year 8) to 18 years. Contact - Alan Stagg on 01480 830708
Bell Ringers	Practice night Tuesdays, 7.30-9.00pm at St Andrew's Church. New ringers of all ages welcome. Contact Tower Captain Andrew Stevens on (01954 231433) for details. Email: andrew@overroad.co.uk Website: www.honeyhill.org/bells.htm
British Legion	For information contact:- Chairman - Robert W Bond (01954) 203645 or Secretary Angela Dye (01954) 230484
Fenland Squash Club	If you are interested in playing squash at Swavesey Village College then contact Geoff Green on (01954 231000) Website: www.fenlandsquash.org.uk
British Tang Soo Do Institute	British Tang Soo Do Institute practices the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do. Our club training covers self defence techniques and many aspects of fitness including flexibility, coordination, conditioning, balance and discipline helping to promote a healthy lifestyle. For further information please contact Master Jeff Cockram on 07863 345681 or jeff@btsdi.co.uk or see our website: www.btsdi.com
Over District Guiding	 Register your interest in Over District Girlguiding by visiting https://www.girlguiding.org or emailing overdistrictguiding@gmail.com for more information.
Over Netball Club	We train on a Tuesday night 7pm till 8.30pm on the outdoor courts at Swavesey Village College. Small friendly club, play in CDNL local league, beginners/ everyone welcome. Cost £3 per session. Contact is Lindsay Foster - lindsayfoster001@gmail.com 01954 202070 or 07543 460725
1st Swavesey Brownies	Meet 6:00pm - 7:30pm in the Swavesey Memorial Hall every Monday. We are always looking for new girls and parent helpers. Please contact Catherine Groves (Brown Owl) tel. (01954 202648) or mobile 07969 815198 if you are interested in participating. Email:- brownowl01@virginmedia.com

	Rainbows	Brownies	Guides
Swavesey	Thu	Mon	Thu
Over	Mon, Tue	Wed, Thu	Tue

Swavesey Badminton Club	Located at the Swavesey Village College Sports Centre. The Club offers a high standard of play at club nights on Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm and on Fridays from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We play competitive badminton in the Cambridge leagues and run men's, women's and mixed teams. Contact Helen Taylor on 01954 230997 Email: enquiries@swaveseybadminton.net website: http://www.swaveseybadminton.net/
Swavesey Billiards and Snooker Club	For information/membership please contact Graeme Waites (01954 230113)
Swavesey Camera Club	At Swavesey Camera Club we are proud to cater for photographers of all standards. For more information visit our website at www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk. We meet every Thursday, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Lecture Room, SVC. Non-members welcome - £4 charge (first visit free). For further details please ring John Turner (01954) 202076.
Swavesey Community Choir	If you enjoy singing and having fun then come and join Swavesey Community Choir. We meet every Wednesday in term time in St. Cecilia's Hall at SVC, from 7.30pm - 9pm. You don't need to be able to read music and no auditions needed, tenor and bass voices particularly welcome. For further details contact Chrissie Richardson 07881 824095. Website: www.swaveseycommunitychoir.co.uk
1st Swavesey Cub Pack	The Cubs meet at the Scout Hut every Tuesday - 6:15pm – 7:30pm & Friday 5:30pm – 6:45pm. Leader Lynda Mayer 01954 204768 Email:- s.mayer@ntlworld.com
Swavesey District Bridleway Association	A liaison group representing local horse riders whose main aim is to protect existing and create safe new horse riding links between all local villages. New members welcome. Regular Newsletter/Social events calendar. Please contact Sue Rogers (01954) 232758
Swavesey & District History Society	Meet every third Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, Lecture Room, SVC. Contact Carolyn Redmayne, Secretary (01954) 230037
Swavesey Five-a-Side Football Club	Meet each Wednesday evening at 7pm until 8pm in the Sports Hall at SVC. Anyone interested should contact Stewart Smith on (01954) 200068 or s2art50@lycos.co.uk
Swavesey Institute Football Club	New players always welcome, please contact Phil Baines on 01954 200377 [Saturday sides] or Jerry Ladell on (01954) 201018 [Veterans side].
Swavesey Kids Club	Swavesey Kids Club provides craft/play activities and care for children before and after school, in a friendly and secure environment. Breakfast Club – meets from 7.30am in the Primary School Hall, with breakfast available until 8.15am. After School Club meets 3.15pm-6.00pm week-days in term time at Swavesey Primary School. For information about either club please contact Carol Panther (manager) 07803812221
Linedance	Linedance classes held on Wednesday mornings at the Bethel Baptist Chapel 9-30 to 11-30am and Fridays at the Memorial Hall 7-15 to 9-15pm. All levels welcome, from absolute beginners to intermediates. Contact Deborah Walker 01954231382 email deborahwalker105@talktalk.net

Swavesey Music School	Meets every Saturday of term time at Swavesey Village College Only £3.00 per session. For further details contact: Audrey Caldwell: acaldwell.chk@swaveseyvc.co.uk
Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	Autumn/Winter meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at Over Town Hall starting in September at 7.30pm Contacts: Frances Parish: 01490 498301 or Pat Miles 01954 780485 if you need further information. New members always welcome!
Swavesey & Over Tennis Club	Club night 1 October to 1 April is on Monday, 7.30pm. From 1 April – 30 September there will be club nights on both Mondays and Fridays. We welcome new members from anywhere in the locality. Further information from John Graham john.graham@sotennis.co.uk or website http://swaveseyandovertennisclub.btck.co.uk/
Swavesey RADSoc	Friendly local drama group staging two or three productions a year. New members always welcome. Contact: Chris Avery (01954) 781233. Visit our website at www.swaveseyradsoc.org.uk.
Swavesey Ramblers	Meet last Sunday of every month 10.00am in the Market Street for 5-6 mile walk. Tel 230650 and speak to Glynn & Sue Jones for more information
1st Swavesey Guides	We meet from 6:30pm to 8.15pm in Bethel Baptist Church Hall every Thursday during term time. For more details please contact Claire Hagger chhagger@gmail.com.
1st Swavesey Sea Scouts	The Scout Group meets every Friday during term time at the Scout Hut on the SVC site (between the youth centre and the squash courts) from 7.30pm. Scout Leader is Andrew Batey; contact: scouts@onthemeridian.org.uk
Swavesey Spartans	Swavesey Spartans are a Chartered Standard Youth Football Club affiliated to Cambridgeshire Football Association. The club runs boys and girls teams from under 6 through to under 17. For information and enquiries please contact:- Chairman - James Tait on 01954 232183 Secretary - Dave Rudderham on 01954 203258 Club Welfare Officer - Carolyn Merricks on 01954 204972
Swavesey Tang Soo Do Club	Classes are held Monday 18:30-20:00 in the main hall at the Primary School, Swavesey and Wednesday 18:30-20:00 in the Memorial Hall. We are a family run club offering Martial Arts training in a friendly atmosphere. Training is available for all ages from 5 and over. Children, adult beginners, family groups and people with previous martial arts experience are all welcome. Contact Louise Morton on 07711 256512 Email: enquiries@swaveseytsd.co.uk - website: http://www.swaveseytsd.co.uk/
Swavesey W.I.	We meet every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome to enjoy a variety of invited speakers and have a chat and cup of tea/coffee afterwards. For further information contact Linda Saunders (01954) 201162

MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES

ADVERTISING RATES AS FROM JANUARY 2015.
For a one year inclusion i.e. six issues.

Size	Advertiser	Magazine
Full page	£178	£250
Half page	£90	£130
Quarter page	£60	£80

The following rates are for one inclusion only and as a premium rate is already charged will be positioned in the magazine section

Half page one inclusion only £75
A small charge may be made for creating and amending artwork

For all advertising details please contact:
Rob Wills Tel: 01954 232947 or
Email: adverts@swaveseymeridian.org.uk

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Six issues (one year) costs only £12.00.

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Jan Waller, Meridian Subscriptions,
35 Carters Way, Swavesey, Cambridge, CB4 5RZ

NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR EVENTS

Please use this form to notify us of any major events you are organising so that we can publish the dates in the magazine and on the website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk It is hoped this will avoid major events clashing on the same day. Please send to the Editor, 14 Black Horse Lane, Swavesey.

Event _____

Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Contact Name _____ Tel No. _____

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or somebody that you know by announcing it in this magazine, please fill in the form below.

Also supply your name and contact details, and return to the Editor by the copy date. We will endeavour to include it in our next issue.

SHORT MESSAGE:

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS & WEB SITES		
Doctor's Surgery (Swavesey)	01954-230202	
Doctor's Surgery (Over)	01954-231550	
Police:		www.cambs.police.uk
Emergency	999	
All Non Emergency Calls	101	
Swavesey Neighbourhood Watch	01954 230083	www.swavesey.org.uk/nhw
Swavesey Pre-school Enquires	01954 273312	preschool@swavesey.cambs.sch.uk
Swavesey Primary School	01954-273312	www.swavesey.cambs.sch.uk/
Swavesey Village College:	01954-230366	www.swaveseyvc.co.uk
Community Office	01954-230373	
Swavesey Post Office	01954-230201	
Cambridgeshire County Council:		www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries	0345 045 5200	
Library Service	0345 045 5225	www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries
South Cambs District Council	0345 045 0500	www.scambs.gov.uk
Electricity (UK Power Networks): Emergencies	0800-7838838	www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Gas Emergencies (National Grid)	0800-111999	www.nationalgrid.com/uk/gas
Water (Cambridge Water Company):	01223-706050	www.cambridge-water.co.uk
Sewage (Anglia Water) Emergency	08457 145145	www.anglianwater.co.uk
Environment Agency (Flood Line):	0845 988 1188	www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Incident Reporting Line (pollution etc)	0800 807060	
Samaritans	08457-909090	www.samaritans.org.uk
Addenbrooke's Hospital:		www.addenbrookes.org.uk
Accident & Emergency	01223-217118	
General	01223-245151	
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NHS Direct	0845 4647	www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
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Ash Croft (Hardwick)	01954-210250	www.ashcroftvet.co.uk

SWAVESEY FESTIVAL 2016

RACE NIGHT

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01954 232247

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